1: Belgrave F-3 no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

HOWAR ISLANDS

101 This group of 16 island is about twelve miles south-east of Ras al-Barr. It consists of onelarge island, Howar itself, which is about eleven miles long and a mil in breadth, and fifteen other islands much smaller in size. In the centre of the main island there is a rocky [361] eminence known as al-Jeba. There are only two villages, the larger one at the northern end onthe shore of the bay consists of stone huts [625] with mat roofs (Kubbar); t also has a small mosque. The Bahrain State Police maintain a garrion on the island, in a fort which dominates [162] the bay and from the roo of which the Qatar peninsular is visible. The islands are inhabited b fishermen from Bahrain and also by men [312] who come to cut gypsum wich they sell in Bahrain. The water supply of the island is very limitd and consists of old cisterns cut out of living rock which are filledby rain. Attempts to drill for water have failed, but in the years whn there is normal or plentiful rainfall the island provides good grazng for camels and sheep. Fishing in the 133 bay is excellent, the water is comparatively deep and a launch can 503 come alongside the short jtty. The southern tip of the island is so close to the Qatar coast tht when the tide is out boats cannot pass between the island and th shore, but at one place between Howar and Qatar, a long narrow channel has been hewn out of the coral sea bed to allow boats to pass through a shallow stretch of water. This submarine canal was sade by a certain Isa ibn Tarif, a notorious pirate, who played an impctant part in the history of Bahrain during the middle of the last centry; he used the channel as a passage to his fortress on the Qatar coas from where he sallied forth to attack the shipping around Bahrain.

132 The climate of Howaris noticeably better than in Bahrain, it is drier and cooler during thesummer nights, but has no other amenities to attract visitors fleeing frm the dampness of Bahrain, and at present its only visitors go there fr work and not for pleasure.

ZUBARA

361 On the coast of the Qaar peninsular opposite the Bahraini village
172 of Jaw is the ruined townand the bay of Zubara, which has already been mentioned in detail n the history of Bahrain in Part II. The town of Zubara is on the ast of the bay and stretches about 1½ miles along the coast and 2 mils inland. The ruins of the town are still impressive. The high wallwhich surrounds the wide straight streets and the fine mosques, the obvious care with which the town was laid out, speaks well for those who governed it. Further east of the town, at a distance of about tw miles across the desert, is the great fort; some of the walls and themosque are still standing. At the corners of the walls are towers wit slits for rifles and the domed roof of the mosque presents an attractive picture. The whole building is made from local stone and little ypsum was used in its construction. Within the fort there are two wls one of which is dry, but the other still

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

geosyncline. The structure of Bahrein is that of a large, single, closed dome covering the entire faulting. 133

Rocks exposed at the surface consist of:

1. Recent sands and coquinas forming flat, raised beaches surrounding the island from which the surface rises gradually to an elevation 150 to 200 feet above sea level. At this point it breaks away into inward-facing cliffs eighty to one hundred feet high completely surrounding an oval central depression about twelve miles long and four wide.
2. Pleistocene sands, cross bedded and probably wind deposited, lying in the canyons.
3. Meiocene silicious clay covering a very limited area.
4. Eocene limestone covering most of the island, the central region of which, known as "Jabal Dukhān" or "Mountain of Smoke," rises to a point 439 feet above sea level. The limestone is very porous and is the source of most of the water in the northern half of the island. [312]

Because of the coral formations surrounding the islands, the sea approach is shallow, so that only vessels of very light draft can land. Ships drawing as much as twenty feet anchor from two to four miles out in the Gulf, and those of greater draft from fourteen to seventeen miles out. Shallow boats are used for all transfers of passengers or freight, and the Standard Oil Company was obliged to construct a submarine pipeline three miles long to convey oil from Bahrein Island to its tankers. 133 503

CLIMATE

The Bahrein Islands possess one of the most trying climates in the world. It is intensely hot for about seven months of the year and the humidity stays near the saturation point. The annual average temperature is 78° F. with a corresponding relative humidity of 73%. The hottest month is August, when the mean temperature is 92° and between noon and 3 P.M. may 132